

# Centered Zipper

12.155

Page 1



## SEW-lutions Guidelines

Your Guide  
to  
Successful  
Sewing

© 2008 Sewing & Craft Alliance  
Permission is granted to  
educators and retailers to  
reproduce these publications  
as-is as a handout for  
educational purposes only.  
They may not be altered,  
changed or added to in any  
manner. No commercial or other  
use, distribution, or  
reproduction is permitted.

Get free projects and  
more SEW-lutions  
Guidelines at  
[www.sewing.org](http://www.sewing.org)



The simplest zipper application is a centered one suitable for a center back, center front, sleeve or leg opening location. Using a centered application, there is an evenly placed stitching line on either side of the opening seamline.

### Getting Ready

To prepare for the zipper application, lightly press any creases from the zipper tape. Be sure not to touch the zipper coils with the iron—press only the tape.

If the upper zipper opening has a facing (such as at a neckline edge), apply it prior to inserting the zipper.

Stitch the garment seam up to the location of the zipper, matching any crosswise seamlines, such as a waistline or yoke seam. If the pattern doesn't indicate a lower point for the zipper opening, measure the zipper teeth and add 3/4" to the length. When you reach the lower edge of the zipper opening, reset the machine to a basting length stitch (6 stitches per inch) and finish stitching the seam where the zipper opening will be.

For easy removal of the basting stitches after the zipper is applied, clip the stitches every 2"-3".

Press the seam allowances open along the entire placket length and beyond. If the seam edges require finishing to prevent raveling, do that before inserting the zipper. Options include serging, zigzagging or binding.

### Zipper Application

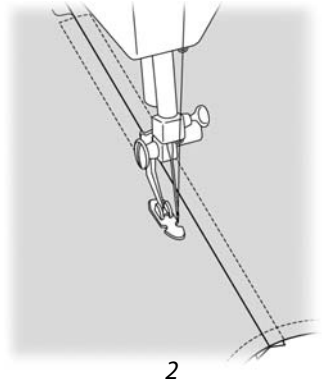
#### Method 1

Install an adjustable zipper foot on the sewing machine and place the needle in the left-hand position.

Working with the wrong side of the garment toward you, open out the right seam allowance. Open the zipper and place the teeth along the pressed seamline. Baste the zipper tape in place through the seam allowance only (1). Zip the zipper and repeat for the

left side, moving the needle to the opposite side of the zipper foot.

From the garment right side, pin the zipper flat. Topstitch evenly on each side of the zipper opening seam, beginning at the lower garment seam so you're stitching in the same direction on each side (2).

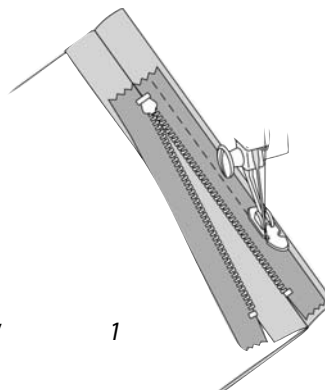


To help keep the stitching line even, center 1/2"-wide tape over the opening seamline, then stitch on either side of the tape. Remove the tape after stitching.

#### Method 2

Install an adjustable zipper foot on the sewing machine and place the needle in the left-hand position.

Apply water-soluble basting tape or a thin line of fabric glue close to each edge of the zipper tape right side. Center the closed zipper over the pressed-open seam allowances and finger-press in place. If using glue, allow the glue to dry before stitching.



From the garment right side, topstitch evenly on each side of the zipper opening seam, beginning at the lower garment seam so you're stitching in the same direction on each side.

To help keep the stitching line even,

center 1/2"-wide tape over the opening seamline, then stitch on either side of the tape. Remove the tape after stitching.


### Stitching Options

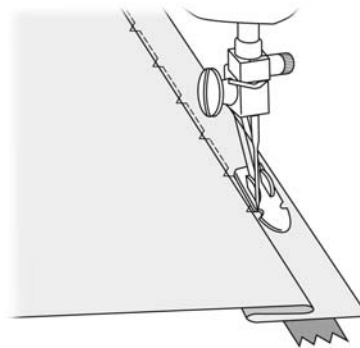
Instead of topstitching the zipper application by machine, use a hand stitch for a more inconspicuous finish. This technique works well in napped fabrics like velvet or corduroy where machine stitching will create an obvious application. See Guideline 22.140 Hand Stitches for information on a prick or pick stitch often used to finish zipper applications.

To finish a centered zipper application using a machine blindhem stitch, use method 1 above to anchor the zipper to each seam allowance, then fold back the garment sections and use the blindhem stitch to catch the garment portion to the seam allowances (3). For more information on this technique, see Guideline 16.120.

### Finishing

Remove the basting stitches from the zipper placket seam.

Finish the upper edges of the opening by turning under the facing if one was previously applied. Or, apply the facing, binding or other upper edge finish crossing over the stitched zipper top. 



3

For more information on zipper applications, see Guidelines 12.250 Lapped Zippers and 12.310 Invisible Zippers.